

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /039 W
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R 130741Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9165

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 2172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU

SUBJ: ACTIVITIES OF ASIAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

REF: STATE 16912

1. REGRET DELAY RESPONDING REFTEL. FOLLOWING INFO,
FROM KARACHI CONGEN, SUM TOTAL OUR KNOWLEDGE ARO:

A. "...WE TOUCHED BASE AGAIN WITH OUR TRADE UNION
CONTACTS. THEY RECONFIRMED OUR EARLIER IMPRESSION THAT
THE ARO, WHICH WAS FOUNDED IN KARACHI IN 1951, IS ALMOST
TOTALLY DORMANT IN PAKISTAN.

B. "OUR CONTACTS POINTED OUT THAT FROM 1951 TO
1966, 697 TRADE UNIONISTS FROM 15 COUNTRIES ATTENDED
TRAINING COURSES AT THE ICFTU-ARO ASIAN TRADE UNION
COLLEGE, ESTABLISHED IN CALCUTTA IN 1952 AND LATER
SHIFTED TO NEW DELHI. OUT OF THE 697, ONLY 19 WERE
PAKISTANIS. SINCE 1965 NO RPT NO PAKISTANI TRADE UNIONISTS
HAVE TAKEN COURSES AT THE NEW DELHI INSTITUTION. THE
SEMINAR MENTIONED REF B (KARACHI 272) WAS THE ONLY ARO
ACTIVITY HERE IN 1974.

C. "GENERALLY, THE ICFTU IS LOOKED ON BY PAKISTANI
TRADE UNIONISTS AS PRO-WEST, BUT THE ARO IS SEEN AS INDIAN-
DOMINATED AND SUSPECT. SINCE PAKISTANI UNIONS SEEK INTER-
NATIONAL AFFILIATION PRIMARILY IN HOPE OF OPENING UP
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD FOR THEIR MEMBERS, THEY PAY
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MUCH MORE ATTENTION TO THE ICFTU THAN THE ARO, WHOSE

TRAINING CENTER HAS LONG BEEN OFF LIMITS."

2. ISLAMABAD QUERY OF SELECTED LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS
ADDED NOTHING TO ABOVE. ALL STATED THAT, FOR ALL INTENTS
AND PURPOSES, ARO MORBUND IN PAKISTAN. BYROADE

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NNN

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